



# Board Report

JUNE 9, 2016

## State Peer Group Study Highlights Student Success

Each year, the State Chancellor's Office publishes student success data for all community colleges in California. Peer groups are constructed based on the economic, educational and environmental characteristics of students in each college's service area. These characteristics include graduation rates of local high schools, college-going rates, and household income. Peer groups allow the states to make valid comparisons between campuses.

This year, San Bernardino Valley College is one of nine campuses in a peer group that will allow the state to compare community colleges. SBVC excelled in Math and English in basic skills success. For Math success, Valley College ranked as number 7, ranking higher than 6 other campuses and roughly equal to the state average of all 113 community colleges. For English success, SBVC ranked number 6 among the 9 other campuses, with only 3 other campuses ranking higher.



# Students Shine at City's First Art Night



San Bernardino Valley College was a proud participant in the city's first-ever Art Night, which took place in downtown San Bernardino on May 19th. The event was hosted in partnership with the city to highlight the various forms of art produced by talented local K-12 and college students. Artists showcased their best two and three-dimensional works in the City Hall lobby, while the audience was captivated by the many talents of SBVC's Music Department, led by Professor Matie Scully. SBVC's Welding Club also participated with contributions of artistic welding projects, and the Architecture department contributed architectural models and drawings. Great job, SBVC!

# STEM Program Unveils Golf Cart Project

On April 29th, a customized golf cart made by students, faculty and staff in the San Bernardino Valley College STEM program was revealed to the public. The development of the cart was a collaborative effort by students in the STEM program, as well as faculty from multiple departments on campus. During the unveiling ceremony, Acting Vice President Henry Hua and STEM Program Director Marc Donnhauser recognized the students and faculty who contributed to the making of the cart. The SBVC STEM program provides services such as counseling, book vouchers, and community events for students the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.



# Faculty Spotlight: David Smith



In his new book, *Love in a Distant Land*, math professor David Smith is going back to his roots. Smith grew up in Bangkok, where his father worked as a hospital chaplain, and he's returned several times for mission trips and speaking engagements at Christian English-language schools. That's the setting for *Love in a Distant Land*, which chronicles the life of Rachel Marie Stone, a young woman who falls in love while teaching "prathom six" (sixth grade) at the fictional Bangkok Christian School.

"A number of years ago, I did a ten-book sports series entitled *Bucky Stone Adventures*, and she was the main protagonist's little sister," Smith said. "So, this is a spin-off of sorts."

Smith's writing goes back to his high school days in Singapore, where he says he wrote a "painfully juvenile" humor column for the school paper. Professionally, he began writing for magazines and newspapers in his late twenties, and spent a few decades as the main scriptwriter for a national Christian radio show. "I like to have characters wrestle with real issues: love, anger, sex, faith, but in settings where good people work things out in an appealing way," Smith said. "In the Rachel Marie series, she is the straw that stirs the proverbial drink in each novel. People with some fragility or tough baggage to deal with come out to Bangkok, fall in love, and also have a good rebirth of faith in God. There's a lot of charm and whimsy to the stories. All the critics so far are saying they can't put them down, so that is nice to hear."

It takes Smith about three to four months to complete a book the length of *Love in a Distant Land* (380 pages), so he tries to spend most Fridays and Sundays writing. He's also working on a two-book young adult project in the Christian sci-fi genre. "During holiday breaks, I can crank through a decent chapter most days," he said. "My math stuff at Valley comes first, but this is a pleasant diversion." Smith is finishing his seventh year at SBVC and he enjoys the balance he has between teaching and writing. "I think SBVC is the greatest place in the world to work, and I love all my classes," he said. To purchase Smith's book, visit [www.bigumbrella.tv](http://www.bigumbrella.tv) or purchase an e-book copy on Amazon.

# Campus Celebrates Humanities Day



This year, SBVC celebrated Humanities Day on May 5th. The festivities began with a performance by the Irish folk trio, The Reelers. The music and culture shock captivated the audience. The day continued with a reading and Q&A from author Aimee Phan, reading from her latest novel, *The Reeducation of Cherry Truong*. Students were able to inquire about the writing process, publishing options, and the characters in her works. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring faculty from throughout the Arts & Humanities division regarding their own

journeys of self-discovery and selection of college majors. The celebration ended with a reveal of this year's issue of Phineas, the student-run literary magazine featuring fiction, poetry and art by SBVC students.

## High School Seniors Explore Careers at SBVC

On April 29, the Applied Technology, Transportation and Culinary Arts Division participated in a campus-wide Senior Day event. The First Year Experience program invited various local high schools to tour the SBVC campus. Well over 400 students were in attendance. The goal was to encourage high school students to select SBVC as a college option for their future. The tours were followed by free lunch and the opportunity to meet with current college students and professors from all across campus.



## Art Show Showcases Student Artistic Talent



Throughout the month of May, the Clara and Allen Gresham Art Gallery hosted its Annual Student Art Show. The show featured works contributed by SBVC students, most of whom were enrolled in an art class during the spring semester. The reception was held on May 11th, and it didn't disappoint! Student contributions included everything from photography to glassblowing. Many of the artists featured in the Student Art Show were also given the opportunity to submit art to the city's first-ever Art Night.